

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8188

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE CRISIS: LETTERS TO SC PRESIDENT FROM PRIME
MINISTER KARAME

1. FOLLOWING LETTER TO SC PRESIDENT VINCI (ITALY) WAS TRANSMITTED
THROUGH AMBASSADOR AHMED OF EGYPT ON JULY 2, 1976 ON BEHALF OF
LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER KARAME. LETTER WAS SENT TO COUNCIL MEMBERS.

QUOTE:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, NEW YORK

REFERRING TO OUR DISPATCH OF 20 JUNE 1976 TO HIS
EXCELLENCY MR. KURT WALDHEIM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS, IN WHICH WE SET OUT OUR FIRM AND CLEAR ATTITUDE
WITH REGARD TO THE DECISION TAKEN UNILATERALLY BY PRESIDENT
SELEMAN FRANGIA BY WHICH HE DISMISSED MR. PHILLIPE TAKLA,
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO ENJOYED THE CONFIDENCE
OF PARLIAMENT, AND APPOINTED MR. CAMILLE CHAMOUN VICE-
PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
I SHOULD LIKE TO REITERATE TO YOUREXCELLENCY THAT THIS DEC-
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ISION IS NULL AND VOID SINCE IT RUNS COUNTER TO THE CON-

STITUTIONAL TRADITIONS IN FORCE, TO THE SPIRIT OF THE NATIONAL PACT AND TO THE PRINCIPLE OF PARTICIPATION IN THE POWER OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY SINCE OUR REGIME IS A PARLIAMENTARY AND DEMOCRATIC REGIME AND NOT A PRESIDENTIAL ONE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS THE POLITICAL DECISIONS OR POLICIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC MUST BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH ALONE IS RESPONSIBLE BEFORE PARLIAMENT AND WHICH ENJOYS ITS CONFIDENCE. WE THEREFORE CONSIDER THAT ANY DECISION TAKEN BY MR. CAMILLE CHAMOUN AS MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT EITHER THE INTERNATIONAL, ARAB OR LOCAL LEVELS IS VOID AND IN NO WAY ENGAGES MY GOVERNMENT. IN MY CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ENJOYING THE CONFIDENCE OF PARLIAMENT, I CATEGORICALLY REJECT THE COMPLAINT SUBMITTED BY MR. CHAMOUN TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. WALDHEIM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AGAINST CERTAIN ARAB STATES AND THE PLO. FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED REASONS I CONSIDER IT VOID AND UNFOUNDED IN REALITY. I REQUEST YOUR EXCELLENCY TO TAKE NOTE OF OUR FIRM ATTITUDE IN THIS REGARD.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF LEBANON AND ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RASHID KARAME.

UNQUOTE

2. FURTHER LETTER FROM KARAME TO SC PRESIDENT VINCI AND SYG WALDHEIM DATED JULY 5 HAS NOT BEEN CIRCULATED. ITALIAN MISSION MADE COPY AVAILABLE TO US AND EXPLAINED THAT THIS LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO ITALIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO AMB. VINCI.

QUOTE

"FOLLOWING OUR DESPATCH OF 2 JULY IN WHICH WE EXPLAINED TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE ILLEGALITY OF THE NOMINATION OF MR. CAMILLE CHAMOUN AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND CONSEQUENTLY THE NULLITY OF ANY DECISION, ACTION OR POSITION TAKEN BY HIM ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, ARAB OR LOCAL, I MUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF OUR CONSTITUTION (ARTICLES 52, 64, 66), WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL TRADITIONS IN FORCE AT THE (GARBLED) OF THE NATIONAL AGREEMENT AND CONCERNING THE PRINCIPLE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHIEF OF THE GOVERNMENT IN POWER, EVEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC DOES NOT HIMSELF HAVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE DECISIONS ALONE IN ALL THE DOMAINS, INCLUDING THAT OF FOREIGN POLICY, LEBANON BEGIN MOREOVER A PARLIAMENTARY AND DEMOCRATIC REGIME AND NOT A

PRESIDENTIAL REGIME. CONSEQUENTLY, I WOULD BE GREATEFUL TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, IN MY CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AD INTERIM HAVING THE CONFIDENCE OF PARLIAMENT, IF YOU WOULD NOT ACT ON ANY COMMUNICATION WHICH HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO YOU OR WILL BE PRESENTED TO YOU BY OUR PERMANENT DELEGATE, MR. EDWARD GHORRA, UNLESS IT IS GIVEN MY APPROVAL AND CONFORMS WITH MY GOVERNMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH ASSUMES ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN MATTER CONCERNING EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO THE PARLIAMENT.

PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT (MR. SECRETARY GENERAL), THE ASSURANCE OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF LEBANON, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

SIGNED: RACHID KARAME. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 JUL 1976
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